Website: serenade.moe

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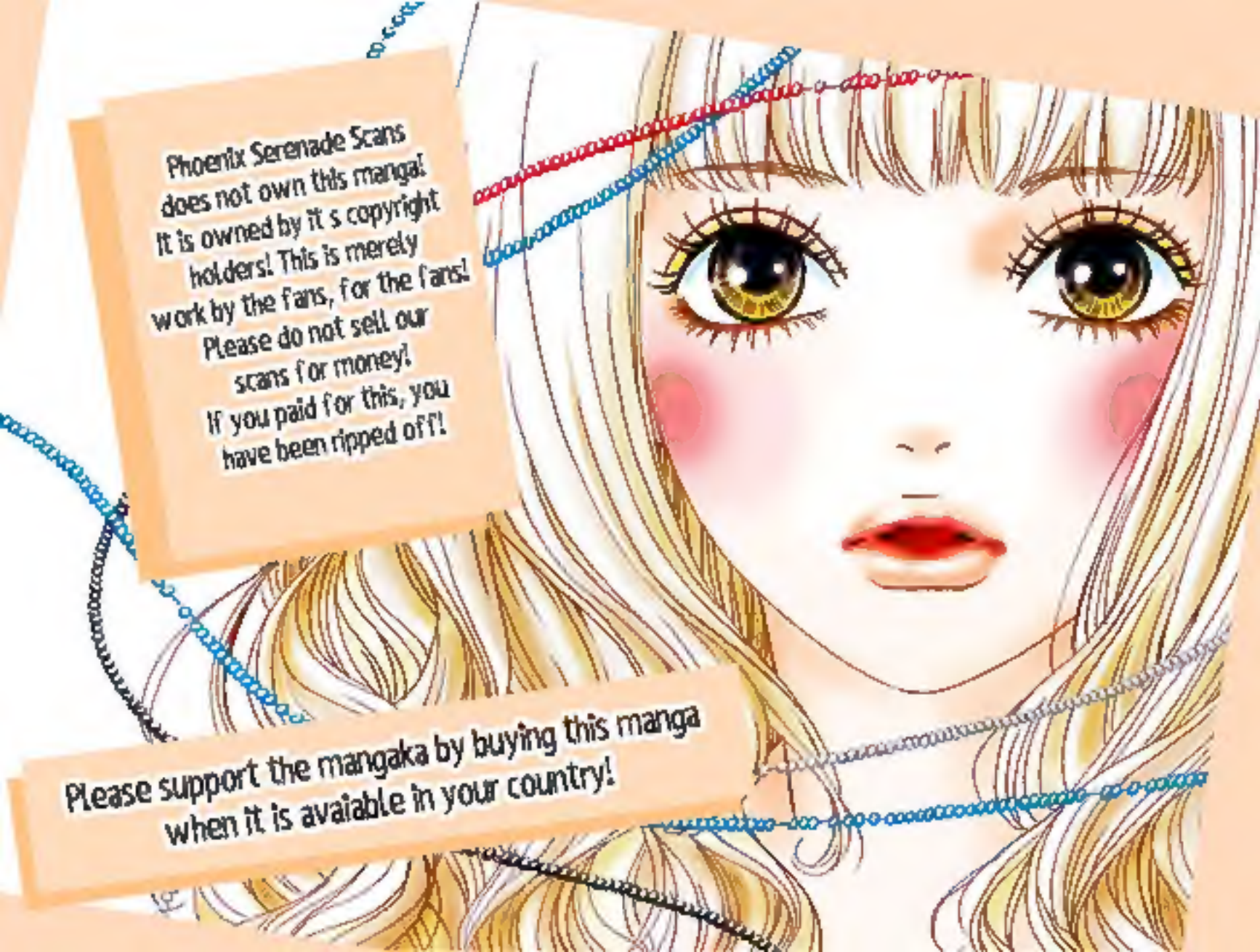
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Chapter 22

FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT.

SQUISH

THREE, FOUR,

SQUISH

SEVEN, EIGHT, FOUR, TWO,

COLETTE DID IT!

MOM! I KNEADED THE BREAD!

PERFECT!

FLOP

M-M-M-MOM?!

IS THAT ME?!

IT'S PRETTY GOOD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

OH!

THAT'S GOOD, GOOD!

Really nice~

!!

I WONDER IF IT WILL BE COOKED WELL AND TASTE NICE?

THE FIRST BREAD MADE BY COLETTE.

NOW LET'S GO AND BAKE IT IN THE OVEN.

It won't burn, right?

How can we keep it from burning?

I'VE ONLY SEEN ROUND BREAD BEFORE!

RIGHT?

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.

Huh? I can't hear.

I'LL TEACH YOU SOMETHING NICE, COLETTE.

What was Mom saying?

LISTEN WELL, OKAY?

What was the "something nice"?

Dazed

Mom even showed up in my dreams.

Time to get up.

I wonder if it's because of how Mina's face expression yesterday reminded me of her.

...

Morning...

"Something nice"...

I suppose there's no helping that I don't remember it.

I learned about housework not from my Mom, but in the clinic...

That dream was probably from the time she was starting to teach me housework.

But the epidemic came shortly afterward, and everyone died.

Can't I remember any proof...

...

That I was Mom's daughter?

NOW, COLETTE, PAULA!

WE'RE DOING YOUR LESSONS AGAIN TODAY.

WE'LL BE IN YOUR CARE!

H-HOT WATER!

Clean cloths!

Yes!

PRETEND IT'S THE REAL THING, AND TRY GETTING READY.

This time, it's starting at sunset!

There will be a gap in between the labor pains.

These are the birth records from the last two months.

I see.

3

Things I think sometimes while drawing the skeletons.

=

Scritch

Scritch

Even though it's bone..

How can his eyes change size, when he's a skull?

=

Scritch

Scritch

Things I think sometimes while drawing Haru, the seamstress

Even though it's bone

What's with these round cheeks?

It's a mystery I drew myself, but it's foolish to think too deeply about it.

At the end of the day, I just think, "Oh, whatever," and keep drawing

I have to get it together!

HUH?!

I have to do it quicklyyyy!

PAULA! YOUR FACE, YOUR FACE!

We'll do it again from the beginning!

SOB

SORRY...

IF YOU DO IT LIKE THAT, THEN MINA WON'T BE AT EASE!

All right, here we go!

MINA!

You're not going for a walk today?

I HAVE A LOT OF HOUSE-WORK TO DO.

IT'S GETTING HARDER TO MOVE EASILY.

Then we'll help you!

Oh!

We're good at cleaning.

YES to shiny

Cleaning is a doctor's specialty!

NO dust

I'D FEEL BAD ASKING YOU TWO TO CLEAN FOR ME.

NOT AT ALL!

giggle

giggle

THEN MAYBE I WILL ASK FOR YOUR HELP.

Squeeze

T/N: Inside the curtain, I think.

Is it okay if I go inside?*

SURE.

I was able to talk to Mina without being awkward.

It's this, this feeling!

It feels nice!

All right, it's clean!

squeak

squeak

Ho, ho!

Sniff

Him?

It's the smell of a normal house.

Ah, Flower crowns

From a doctor's house that has medicinal plants everywhere.

Sniff

Sniff

Sniff

As I thought, the smell and atmosphere is different...

A small box and small bottles.

A doll,

A wooden horse,

It was my treasure box

I put the rocks I collected into the wooden box my dad had made for me.

A doll my mom made for me.

That's right. I had them too.

Gasp

Sorry!

Oops! This belongs to someone!

...

The doll, and the treasure box...

I couldn't bring anything out from the infected village.

There really is nothing left for me.

Even now,

It's sad.

Hooray!

Thank you.

AND SERA, TOO.

I MADE A LOT OF VEGETABLE SOUP, SO PLEASE SHARE IT WITH ME.

THANKS FOR TODAY

Hey, it looks good!

Ooh!

...

Bubble

Bubble

AT TIMES LIKE THESE, I MEASURE TIME WITH A SONG.

FOR EXAMPLE, A FIVE-MINUTE SONG

Where is your hour-glass?

I THINK IT JUST NEEDS FIVE OR SIX MORE MINUTES.

REGULAR VILLAGE FOLKS DON'T HAVE SUCH SPLENDID THINGS.

AS EXPECTED OF A DOCTOR

Listen well, okay?

I'll teach you something nice, Colette.

Ah...

THAT'S PROOF OF THE LOVE YOUR MOTHER POURED INTO YOU.

IT'S STILL INSIDE OF YOU.

OH, SO YOU KNOW IT, COLETTE.

IF IT'S DEAR TO YOUR HEART, EVEN IF YOU FORGET IT TEMPORARILY, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY REMEMBER IT.

My mother taught it to me long ago.

I'd forgotten it until just now.

Proof.

Mooooh, mooooh!

You did it!

We have to show your father!!

I baked bread!

Mom,

The bread was tasty, huh?

Memories...

I loved to be hugged tightly.

Why am I such a spoiled child?

But there's no one to do that for me anymore.

They all came back

Mom

Dad.

Ah, what should I do? I remembered,

But now I'm super lonely

But you know,

I'm really longing for that warmth

Sigh, as I thought, it's not the same.

What isn't?

The warmth.

Squeeze

Colette,

What are you doing?!

Co...

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

Ow!

splat

WELL, EXCUSE ME!

Swish

LORD HADES IS TAKING THE DOGS FOR A WALK OUTSIDE THE PALACE.

YOU SHOULD GO.

Aust passage fare

HMM?

I'm being sentimenta..

Owie

COLETTE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NOW NOW,

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

What are you talking about?

Hey, Charon!

WHAT'S WRONG?

Come out

?

I heard you were out taking a walk, Lord Hades.

stare

ARE YOU GETTING HUNGRY?

LET'S GO BACK SOON.

Woof

HM?

Ah, so fluffy... ♡

I think this is better than the skeleton...

Squeeze

?

Ah!

Jump

But it's still...

Not the same.

YOU'RE MAKING A FACE LIKE A LOST CAT.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

...Today, I'm just kind of...

Not my usual self

I was so embarrassed when I gave you the daffodil...

And now it's no different...

Lord Hades.

whump

Just for a moment,

Can we stay like this...?

COME CLOSER.

My heart beats faster by his side than anyone's

But I'm also most at peace.

Maybe I wanted to be like this with Lord Hades...

THE PATIENT, MINA, HUH.

It made me think of various things about my mother.

Yes.

I guess I just...

Get dragged along with my memories sometimes.

Come to think of it, on the night of the festival, too.

Ahh, it's so embarrassing!

...

!

Blush

I'LL DO IT AGAIN IF YOU START LOOKING LIKE A LOST CAT.

...

Re-

Really?

HEHE.

TO BE CONTINUED